

STANFORD UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

STANFORD MEDICAL CENTER

300 PASTEUR DRIVE, PALO ALTO, CALIFORNIA 94304

DEPARTMENT OF GENETICS

Professor Joshua Lederberg

MAY 14 1970

Dear Dr. Alfert

I feel I have wasted enough energy on the "Hensen affair", and I do not think I would add anything very useful by calling him a "charlatan". He is certainly not a well-rounded geneticist, but the flaws in his thinking would be within the customary variation I see among my colleagues. He happens to be stumbling like a bull in a china shop, in a territory that calls for infinitely more sensitivity than he seems to be capable of. Needless to say, I disagree violently with his politics, and I think I have made my contribution to the polemics.

A few relevant items are enclosed; there will be more from time to time that criticize precisely the narrowness and unproductivity of a purely statistical approach, so likely to be confounded with unresolvable factors.

I suggest you also look out for an article that will appear shortly in LIFE.

Sincerely,



Dr. Max Alfert  
U2/B

Dr. Max Alfert  
Zoology Department  
U/C, Berkeley

LT. JOSEPH P. KENNEDY, JR. LABORATORIES FOR MOLECULAR MEDICINE  
dedicated to the study of mental retardation  
Molecular Biology Heredity Neurobiology Developmental Medicine